



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2320 South DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

For Immediate Release:

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Contact

Anne Fitzgerald

800.282.8685 (DE only)

302.698.4520

302.242.4092 (Cell)

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Attention pet owners and horse owners requesting shelter from hurricane Irene

Hurricane Irene is going to necessitate voluntary, and in some cases, mandatory evacuation in parts of Delaware. Shelter provisions are in place for pets and horses. Please refer to the evacuation maps on the Delaware Emergency Management website at <http://dema.delaware.gov/>.

Pets:

Delaware Animal Response (DAR) strongly urges pet owners who are planning to evacuate to seek shelter with family and friends or in hotels that allow pets. If this is not possible, DAR, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Red Cross have designated the following shelters as pet accessible shelters:

- **Indian River High School**, 29772 Armory Rd., Dagsboro, DE 19939
- **Milford High School**, 1019 Walnut Street, Milford, DE 19963
- **Lake Forest High School**, 5407 Killens Pond Road, Felton, DE 19943
- **Middletown High School**, 120 silver Lake Road, Middletown, DE 19709

When pets are brought to the above shelters, the owners should provide the following:

- Medical records, vaccination history, and medications
- Current photographs
- Veterinarian phone number
- Documentation of any behavior problems
- Alternate contact information
- First aid kit
- Leashes, collars, or harnesses (extra sturdy), and muzzle (if necessary) with identification tags
- A pet carrier for each animal
- Food and water bowls, litter pan for cats
- Food and water for at least 7 days, can opener
- Toys, blanket

For more information on emergency preparedness for companion animals and pets:

Elainea Goldthwaite, DAR Coordinator, Delaware Department of Agriculture

Phone – (302) 698-4500 (Department of Agriculture)

(800) 282-8685 (DE only)

(302) 698-4622 (DAR Office)

E-mail – elainea.goldthwaite@state.de.us

Horses:

Horse owners with low-lying pastures or barns or who expect flooding may consider moving horses off their property. If flooding of the animal area is not expected, or if there is high ground to which horses

can be moved, owners are urged to please consider sheltering the horses in place (where they normally live).

Horse owners with low-lying pastures or barns or who expect flooding may consider moving horses off their property. The Delaware State Fairgrounds is accepting horses for sheltering during the hurricane.

- If horses are housed near coastal waters, **and** you are thinking about evacuating your home, you **must** call the fairgrounds **BEFORE** loading your horses.
- There are a limited number of stalls; so again, owners **must** call ahead prior to taking their horse(s).
- The fairgrounds will be providing **only** stalls for the horses that are sheltered there.
- If you call the fairgrounds and they have room for your horse, you must bring your own bedding and feed for your horses. There will **not** be any feed or bedding at the fairgrounds for you to use.
- You will need to arrange your own care for your horses. There will **not** be anyone at the fairgrounds to care for your horses. You will need to take care of your own horses by giving them feed, bedding, and water every day. If you do not have anyone to care for your horses at the fairgrounds, **DO NOT** take them to the fairgrounds.
- If you wish to stay at the fairgrounds, that will be allowed.

FAIRGROUNDS PHONE NUMBER 302-398-3269 EXTENSION 203

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